

HAS No. ID-78

Watson's Store  
Nez Perce National Historical Park  
Spalding  
Nez Perce County  
Idaho

HABS  
ID  
35-SPALD,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### WATSON'S STORE

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**LOCATION:** Nez Perce National Historical Park. South of the railroad and west of Lapwai Creek, across the street from Spalding Church in the town of Spalding, Nez Perce County, Idaho.

**PRESENT OWNER:** National Park Service

**PRESENT USE:** Vacant

**SIGNIFICANCE:** After the 1906 fire destroyed a number of commercial buildings in the town of Spalding, Lewis and Margaret Watson moved to Spalding to establish their own mercantile business. Watson built the false-front frame building in 1911 and used it as his store and residence. He secured the town's post office contract and operated it out of his store. The general store provided the rural community and seasonal tourists visiting Spalding with a variety of goods until 1964, when the store finally closed. After the establishment of the national park in 1965, the former store was converted into temporary park headquarters, and used in that capacity until 1969. In 1974, the National Park Service restored Watson's store as an exterior exhibit.